

Application No.: 10/043,206
01/06/2004

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REMARKS

The Examiner in the Office Action of September 9, 2003 rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moore (U.S. Pat. No. 4,550,903). Claims 4 and 5 were allowed.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1-2 as being anticipated by Moore, Moore discloses a document handler having a plenum which feeds an air knife to assist in separating sheets from a stack. The amount of air discharged from the air knife is varied based upon the number of sheets in the stack of original documents, which is determined by counting the documents. The Examiner has stated that this is equivalent to the weight of the sheets as claimed. Applicant points out that individual sheet weight can vary such that a stack of an equivalent number of different weight sheets can have very different total weights. Thus, the requirement that the amount of air discharged from the air knife is based upon the *weight* of the sheets is not the same limitation as varying the amount of air based upon the *number* of sheets. The reference does not disclose an air source control where the air pressure is varied based on a predetermined condition based upon the weight of a sheet. There is no such requirement in the reference. Accordingly, since all of the claimed elements of the invention herein are not disclosed by the patent cited by the Examiner, it is submitted that claim 1 as previously amended is not anticipated by the reference and is allowable. As claim 2 is dependent upon and contains all of the limitations of presumably allowable claim 1, it is submitted that it too is allowable in the same manner.

A telephone interview at the number listed below is respectfully requested prior to any further Office Action other than a Notice of Allowance, i.e., if the Examiner has

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any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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